

I CLAIM:

1. A method of performing setup operations on a finishing device connected to an electrophotographic printer, the printer having a printer user interface, comprising the steps of:
 - 5 a) entering a print job into the printer, the print job including setup instructions for at least one finishing device written as an operator message;
 - b) automatically printing an instruction sheet listing setup operations to be performed prior to completing the print job;
 - c) automatically placing all pending print jobs on hold;
 - 10 d) performing the setup operations listed on the printed instruction sheet; and
 - e) entering a release code to thereby release the print job from hold and allow the printer to complete the print job.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
 - a. accessing a database of setup instructions that are to be performed on the at least one finishing device;
 - b. retrieving a file from the database containing instructions for a specified finishing device;
 - c. reading the file; and
 - 15 d. translating the file into a page description file that is rasterized and incorporated into the printed instruction sheet.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the print job is entered through a network.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the printer is a stand-alone unit including a scanner that provides image data to the printer.

5. A method of performing setup operations on a finishing device connected to an electrophotographic printer, the printer having a printer user interface, comprising the steps of:

- a) entering a print job into the printer, the print job including setup instructions for at least one finishing device written as an operator message;
- b) automatically printing an instruction sheet listing setup operations to be performed prior to completing the print job;
- c) automatically placing on hold all pending print jobs that specify the finishing device;
- 10 d) performing the setup operations listed on the printed instruction sheet; and
- e) entering a release code to thereby release the print job from hold and allow the printer to complete the print job.

15 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

- a. accessing a database of setup instructions that are to be performed on the at least one finishing device;
- b. retrieving a file from the database containing instructions for a specified finishing device;
- c. reading the file; and
- d. translating the file into a page description file that is rasterized and incorporated into the printed instruction sheet.

20 7. The method of claim 5 wherein the print job is entered through a network.

8. The method of claim 5 wherein the printer is a stand-alone unit including a scanner that provides image data to the printer.

9. A method of managing a printer system, comprising the steps of:

- receiving a print job;
- determining whether the print job specifies a finishing device and whether the print job includes instructions directing an operator to perform specific setup operations and, if so, placing all print jobs on hold;
- printing an instruction sheet listing a series of setup operations to be performed by the operator;
- performing the setup operations listed on the printed instruction sheet; and
- entering a code that removes the hold, allowing the print job to proceed.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein at least some of the instructions for setup operations are stored on a local disk.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein the print job is received from a network.

12. The method of claim 9 herein the printer is a stand-alone unit including a scanner that provides image data to the printer.

13. A method of managing a printer system, comprising the steps of:

- receiving a print job;
- determining whether the print job specifies a finishing device and whether the print job includes instructions directing an operator to perform specific setup operations and, if so, placing on hold all print jobs that specify the finishing device;
- printing an instruction sheet listing a series of setup operations to be performed by the operator;
- performing the setup operations listed on the printed instruction sheet; and
- entering a code that removes the hold, allowing the print jobs to proceed.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein at least some of the instructions for setup operations are stored on a local disk.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein the print job is received from a network.

16. The method of claim 13 wherein the printer is a stand-alone unit including a scanner that provides image data to the printer.

17. A method of managing a printer system, comprising the steps of:

- a. setting up a print job using a setup menu that includes an instruction field in which operator setup instructions may be entered;
- b. submitting the print job to the printer;
- c. determining whether any text has been entered in the instruction field and, if so, placing all print jobs on hold;
- d. printing an instruction sheet comprising the text entered in the operator instruction field;
- e. performing one or more setup operations listed on the printed instruction sheet; and
- f. entering a code that removes the hold, allowing the print jobs to proceed.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein at least some of the instructions for setup operations are stored on a local disk.

19. The method of claim 17 wherein the print job is setup on a network.

20. The method of claim 17 wherein the printer is a stand-alone unit including a scanner that provides image data to the printer.

21. A method of managing a printer system, comprising the steps of:

- a. receiving a print job;
- b. determining that the print job includes operator instructions ;
- c. automatically placing the print job on hold while allowing other print jobs to continue;
- d. printing an instruction sheet corresponding to the operator instructions;
- e. reviewing the printed instruction sheet and performing operations specified by the operator instructions; and
- f. entering a code that removes the hold, allowing the print job to proceed.

25 22. The method of claim 21, wherein at least some of the operator instructions are stored on a local disk.

23. The method of claim 21 wherein the printer is a stand-alone unit including a scanner that provides image data to the printer.

30 24. The method of claim 21 wherein the print job is setup on a network.